

California Department of Aging

Family Caregiver Support Program Narrative

Older Americans Act Title III E

Program / Element / Component – 30.10

Description

The Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) addresses the emotional, physical, and financial consequences of unpaid family caregiving through access to multifaceted systems of support. Preventing the collapse of these fragile family caregiving networks and loss of unpaid care helps high-risk individuals avoid long-term care facility placement and spend down to the Medi-Cal eligibility level.

FCSP provides support to (1) unpaid family caregivers of older adults and (2) grandparents or other older relatives with primary caregiving responsibilities for a child. FCSP services include:

- **Information Services** to provide FCSP and other caregiver support resources and service information through media campaigns, electronic information systems, and community education events.
- **Access Assistance** involving both provider-initiated outreach to overwhelmed caregivers to encourage their use of support services, and caregiver access to information assistance and legal programs.
- **Support Services** to provide caregivers avenues to seek advice and guidance related to their caregiving responsibilities, including caregiver assessment, counseling, support groups, and training.
- **Respite Care** to offer periods of relief from caregiving responsibilities temporarily on an intermittent, occasional, or emergency basis through multifaceted options.
- **Supplemental Services** to support and strengthen care provided by unpaid caregivers through assistive devices, home modifications, service registries for matching care workers with caregivers willing to use personal resources, and emergency cash or material aid.

Benefits

FCSP services can diminish caregiver burden, enable caregivers to remain in the workforce, and prevent or delay more costly unwanted institutional placement and rapid spend down of assets. Information about the caregiving role and available resources empowers those facing a challenging long-term care situation. Proactive outreach and

service access assistance are vital to preserving and promoting unpaid family support networks for high-risk individuals. FCSP support services help caregivers to cope with stress, depression, multiple personal demands, and competing priorities. This can reduce reliance on more costly formal supports. The availability of emergency or intermittent respite enables an unpaid caregiver to provide care by giving them a needed break from their caregiving responsibilities. Limited supplemental services address unique needs that threaten the caregiver's ability to provide care.

Eligibility

<i>Income</i>	<p>No requirement.</p> <p>Caregivers with greatest social need and greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income individuals, including low-income minority individuals, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals residing in rural areas) receive priority for service access.</p>
<i>Age</i>	<p>Family caregivers must be adult (18 years of age or older) family members or other individuals (e.g., friend or neighbor) and willing informal (i.e., unpaid) providers of care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family caregivers who are older individuals (60 years of age or older) with the greatest social need and greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income) receive priority. • Family caregivers of older individuals (60 years of age or older) with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders receive priority. <p>Family caregivers' older care receivers must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults 60 years of age or older. • Individuals of any age with Alzheimer's disease or related disorder with neurologic and organic brain dysfunction. <p>Grandparent, step-grandparent, or other older relative caregivers* must be age 55 or older; related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption; living with the child; and serving as the primary caregiver through a legal or informal arrangement because the biological or adoptive parents are unable or unwilling to serve as the primary caregiver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those caring for children with severe disabilities receive priority. <p>Child care receivers must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children 18 years of age or younger; or • Individuals of any age with a disability.

	*Note: Older caregivers providing care to their adult children with disabilities can be served in FCSP if the adult children are 60 years of age or older.
<i>Other</i>	Respite Care and Supplemental Services are available only to 1) a grandparent/older relative caregiver of a child, or 2) a family caregiver of person 60 years of age or older having two or more limitations in activities of daily living or a cognitive impairment requiring substantial supervision.

Access

Information on FCSP and how to receive services is available through the statewide toll-free Senior Information Line at **1-800-510-2020** and the California Department of Aging website at www.aging.ca.gov.

Current State Fiscal Year Funding Information (2010-11)

<i>Source</i>	OAA federal funds, local funds, in-kind contributions.
<i>Allocation Formula</i>	Intrastate Funding Formula.
<i>Match Requirements</i>	Federal share shall not exceed 75 percent of total FCSP costs. The non-federal share shall be at least 25 percent of local program costs. Currently, the Area Agencies on Aging meet this requirement.
<i>Other Funding Information</i>	State may not allow more than ten percent of the total federal share and required match to provide FCSP services to grandparents and other older relatives caring for a child.
<i>Funding Cycle</i>	July 1 – June 30